

HCS HB 1964 -- SURVIVOR BENEFITS

SPONSOR: Walker

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Government by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill adds several professions, including air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses, air ambulance registered respiratory therapists, uniformed employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and their children and spouses, and specified emergency medical technicians and their children and spouses to the list of those eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the Coordinating Board for Higher Education within the Department of Higher Education.

This bill also adds a uniformed employee of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and his or her child and spouse, and specified emergency medical technicians and their children and spouses to the list of those eligible to receive unpaid workers' compensation claims when the employee is killed in the line of duty.

This bill is similar to HB 1527 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that public and private employees should not be distinguished with respect to tuition and line of duty compensation benefits since they are contracted to perform the same public service duties.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walker; Mid America Regional Council; George Wright; Rande McCrary, Missouri Ambulance Association; Fire Service Alliance; Ruby Mehrer, Missouri Police Chiefs Association; and the Ambulance District Association Of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.